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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

FEB 06 2004

Applicants: Jerome H. Lemelson

Art Unit: 2654

Serial No.: 09/517,993

Examiner: Angela Armstrong

Filed: March 3, 2000

Title: System and Method for Enhancing Speech Intelligibility for the Hearing Impaired

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

In response to the Office Action dated 11/07/2003 please take the following action and consider the REMARKS presented herein.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 21-48 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Graupe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,025,721).

Claims 2-10 and 12-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Summary of this Response

Reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 1 and 11 is requested. U.S. Patent No. 4,025,721 (hereinafter "Graupe") is the basis for the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of these two claims. Applicant believes that Graupe does not anticipate the invention, as Graupe does not include the limitation of the bypass option claimed in claims 1 and 11.

Claims 2-10 and 12-20 are amended to include the all of the limitations of base claims 1 and 11 respectively.

**Following is a detailed response to the first Office Action. Different areas of the response begin on a subsequent page.**